

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-24 and 38 has been cancelled.

Claims 29 and 32 have been amended. These amendments does not add new matter.

Claims 52 and 53 have been added.

Claims 25-37 and 39-53 are pending in this application.

II. Telephone Interview

Applicants' Attorneys would like to thank Examiner Lam for all of the courtesies extended in the telephone interview held on December 22, 2005.

III. Acknowledgment of allowable subject matter

Applicants' Attorneys would like to thank the Examiner for the acknowledgment of allowable subject matter in claims 30-32. Applicants have added new claims 52 -53 which respectively place claims 30-31 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29. Applicants have amended claim 32 to depend from new independent claim 53.

IV. Status of the Specification

The Specification has been amended (Brief Description of the Drawings) to include the description of figure 12 submitted on May 12, 2005.

V. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have amended claim 29 replacing “at least one of the terminals of the switching transistors has a defined electrical potential” with “each of the terminals of the switching transistors has a defined electrical potential.” MP2 and MN2 of Horiguchi make up a conventional CMOS inverter wherein when MP2 is turned off, MN2 is turned on (and vice versa). Horiguchi does not teach or suggest the present invention because Horiguchi’s switching transistors are not both turned on at the same time and if a transistor is in an off state an electrical potential is not defined at “each” terminal of the transistor.

Claim 25, 27 and 28 depend from amended claim 29 and are allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 29.

Claims 25, 27-28, 33-37, 45-46 and 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,500,715 to Matsuzaki et al. (hereinafter “Matsuzaki”).

Claims 25, 27-28, 33-37, 45-46 and 49-50 depend from claim 29. Claim 29 has not received a rejection under § 102(a, b or e) with respect to Matsuzaki. Under U.S. Patent Law a dependent claim is construed to contain all the limitations of the claim upon which it depends. Therefore, since claims 25, 27-28, 33-37, 45-46 and 49-50 depend from claim 29 which has not been rejected under § 102(a, b or e) to Matsuzaki, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above rejection.

VII. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 39-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Horiguchi or Matsuzaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,794,914 to Sani et al. (hereinafter “Sani”).

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Matsuzaki in view of Sani, Applicants submit the following. Claims 39-42 depend from claim 29 which has not received a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a, b or e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to Matsuzaki. Under U.S. Patent Law a dependent claim is construed to contain all the limitations of the claim upon which it depends. Therefore, since claims 39-42 depend from claim 29 which has not been rejected under 35

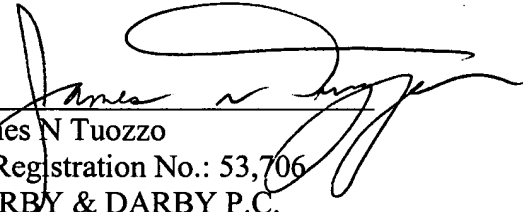
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 25-37 and 39-53 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either, a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
James N Tuozzo
Registration No.: 53,706
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)
Agent For Applicants